

government discriminates against citizens on account of their religion and ethnic origins, again, freedom is denied.

While Turkey has taken some positive steps in recent times, freedom is not a matter of half measures. Our NATO ally must unequivocally and zealously defend the individual liberties of all its citizens.

I support passage of House Resolution 306 to urge the Republic of Turkey to safeguard its Christian heritage and to return confiscated church properties.

IT'S TIME TO STAND WITH THE AMERICAN WORKER

(Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to implore my colleagues in the Senate and to the President, it's time to stand with the American worker. We're talking about adding 20,000 jobs as we approved the Keystone pipeline coming from Alberta, Canada, down to the gulf shore. But Canada's already a leading source of our oil. They actually give us more oil and produce more oil than Saudi Arabia.

Michigan is actually an excellent example of what happens with that partnership. Enbridge, which is actually a competitor to TransCanada right now, is already looking at increasing its capacity and expanding its pipeline; Marathon Refineries, looking at expanding its capacity to be able to handle these Canadian crudes.

We know that this inflow of Canadian oil is a positive thing. Zero taxpayer dollars are going to be used for this, and it will be put thousands of our American workers back to work at a crucial time.

The oil will be extracted. The question is: Where is it going to go? Is it going to be shipped to the United States and create U.S. jobs, or is it going to Asia to help fund the engine to compete against us?

It's time to stand with the American worker, Mr. President.

□ 1220

END OF THE IRAQ WAR

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, as we gather here, President Obama is at Fort Bragg honoring and thanking our men and women in uniform for their service in the war in Iraq and for the sacrifices they've been willing to make to keep us the home of the brave and the land of the free.

America's brave men and women in uniform have done everything that has been asked of them. They have performed with valor, with courage, with patriotism and a dedication to duty.

It is because of our troops and the leadership of President Obama that this month we will be able to say that the war in Iraq is over, our troops are coming home for the holidays with their families. As we thank our troops, we also thank the families of our men and women in uniform for the sacrifices they have been willing to make for our country.

President Obama promised to end the war in Iraq responsibly. Promise made, promise kept. When he took office, nearly 150,000 American troops were deployed in Iraq. This month our troop presence will wind down to just around a few thousand. In winding down the war, the President honored the wishes of the American people.

As we mark the end of the war, we honor the nearly 4,500 Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq. Tens of thousands more have been wounded. We will never forget those who were lost in the war. We will forever be grateful to them and to their families.

I'm from Baltimore, Maryland. When my father was mayor, they built Baltimore stadium. What would they call it? The consensus name was Baltimore Memorial Stadium to honor those who made so much sacrifice for our country. General Pershing said, and that was engraved on Baltimore Memorial Stadium, "Time will not dim the glory of their deeds." Time will not, indeed, dim the glory of those who served and sacrificed in Iraq.

I'm particularly proud to have presided over 4 years of a Congress that made more progress for our veterans and military families than has been made since the passage of the original GI Bill in 1944.

But our work is not done. On the battlefield, the military says we will leave no soldier behind. And when they come home, we promised, Democrats and Republicans working together, to leave no veteran behind.

Over a million of our men and women in uniform served in Iraq. We must honor their service with economic opportunities and the benefits they deserve. We must remember that our commitment to our veterans is not while they serve or even for life. It is a commitment forever, to them and their families.

We must build a future worthy of their sacrifice. As the war in Iraq comes to an end, we express our enormous gratitude to those who have served. Because of them, we express our great optimism for the future.

IRAN THREAT REDUCTION ACT

(Mr. HURT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HURT. I rise today in support of the Iran Threat Reduction Act offered by Chairman ROS-LEHTINEN of the Foreign Affairs Committee, and I thank the chairman for her leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that Iran poses a threat to our Nation, our interests, and our allies. In the wake of the International Atomic Agency report, it is clear that the United States must take swift action to proactively enforce policies that will not only deter but completely disengage the Iranian regime from its hostile nuclear proliferation program.

This legislation will take steps to adequately address Iranian nuclear proliferation by taking aim at its primary source of funding, its energy sector, adding more rigorous financial and energy sanctions, including a provision that will allow judicial sanctions on those that conduct business in Iran's petroleum industry.

As Iranian nuclear threats continue to evolve, so should the United States' ability to address those threats. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

EXTENDING UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, millions of hardworking Americans have lost their jobs in this economic crisis through no fault of their own. But rather than standing up and helping struggling Americans, yesterday this Chamber advanced a bill doomed to fail because of all of the unrelated and controversial riders that were attached.

According to the Rhode Island State director of labor, for every two part- or full-time positions in Rhode Island there are seven applicants. There's an urgent need for Congress to extend Federal emergency unemployment compensation in my State with a total of 58,000 unemployed Rhode Islanders.

This social safety net provides a lifeline to struggling individuals, helping them to pay their mortgage and utilities as well as put food on the table for their families. Families like Betsy Hamel's in Jamestown, Rhode Island. Betsy supports her disabled husband and her severely disabled son but doesn't know how she'll make ends meet while continuing to look for work if unemployment assistance is not extended.

It's time to stop playing partisan games and stand up for the millions of Americans like Betsy and extend unemployment benefits now.

HONORING BORDER PATROL AGENT BRIAN TERRY

(Mr. QUAYLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. QUAYLE. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago today, U.S. Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry lost his life doing what he had done his entire life: serving his country. A native of Detroit, Brian Terry served with distinction in the U.S. Marine Corps and then as a police

officer back home in Michigan. In 2007, Agent Terry was offered a job with the United States Border Patrol—a job he'd always dreamed of.

Agent Terry lost his life during a shootout with armed thugs in Rio Rico, Arizona—just north of the Mexican border. Shortly after his death, his sister, Michelle, told the Associated Press, “His dream all his life was to be a Federal agent. It was always, ‘I want to be a cop. I want to get the bad guys.’ It was his life. He said it was dangerous, but he loved what he did and wanted to make a difference.”

Mr. Speaker, we will never forget Agent Terry and the sacrifice he made. We will continue to keep his family in our thoughts and prayers.

AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE ACT

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, as we hear from Members of this House every day, I thought it would be refreshing to bring the people's voice directly to this floor. So I asked my constituents to send me their thoughts that I could deliver as a 1-minute speech.

The following is from Susan Sigmund of San Diego, who sent me this on the Affordable Care Act to be reviewed by the Supreme Court. She offered: “Being given the opportunity to speak before you, I wanted to make these 60 seconds witty, timely, and relevant to all. Having failed at that, I will simply discuss my main concern right now. It's the future of the health care law. The Supreme Court could strike it down next year.

“I have a preexisting health condition and will die in about 3 years unless I am able to buy a health insurance policy. I'm sure I am one of many facing this bleak possibility.

“As I understand it, if the mandate section requiring a policy goes, so goes the provision barring preexisting condition discrimination. If the time comes, please do the honorable thing and vote to allow your constituents with preexisting conditions to buy health care insurance. Lives depend on it. Thank you.”

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mrs. Sigmund for bringing to the House her thoughts on health care.

REBUILD THE AMERICAN DREAM FOR THE 99% ACT

(Mr. ELLISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, yesterday Members of the Congressional Progressive Caucus introduced an important bill, and it's called the “Rebuild the American Dream for the 99% Act.” This bill, this important “Rebuild the American Dream for the 99% Act,” would create 5 million jobs, Mr. Speaker, over 2 years, and cut the deficit by \$2 trillion over 10 years.

The “Rebuild the American Dream for the 99% Act” creates direct-hire programs to put Americans back to work; provides grants for on-the-job training and employment services; invests \$50 billion for infrastructure projects; creates a national infrastructure bank; improves “buy American” provisions; ends the practice of foreign currency manipulation; protects wounded veterans from job discrimination; extends unemployment insurance, including for people at 99 weeks; and supports the TANF emergency contingency fund to help States pay for the cost of hiring unemployed workers. We can do these things. The “Rebuild the American Dream Act for the 99% Act” does it.

□ 1230

H.R. 3650, ZERO TOLERANCE FOR CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in the calamity of news reports proliferating across America regarding the epidemic proportions of child sexual abuse, I introduce Zero Tolerance For Child Sexual Abuse, H.R. 3650. I ask my colleagues to join me for a national statement of abhorring and standing against the abuse of our children.

On a much happier topic, I thank our leader for her comments on our returning troops, and I look forward to introducing a resolution thanking and congratulating our returning troops, having one day or two days in which our Members will join me in wearing a yellow ribbon and, as well, commemorating the return of our wonderful troops and thanking their families from wherever they have come for this holiday season.

What greater gift than the men and women who have served on the front lines to honor us by their presence here in the holiday season. Our message should be “no silent State, no silent neighborhood, no silent community” in reference to honoring them as they come home.

OPPOSING H.R. 3630, MIDDLE CLASS TAX RELIEF AND JOB CREATION ACT

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Why did I vote against H.R. 3630 yesterday? I could list many reasons, but I only have 1 minute so here are three.

One, the bill extends unemployment insurance for some jobless Americans and then drastically cuts months off of benefits for others, and it makes all who are unemployed jump through demeaning hoops in order to get any benefits.

Two, in order to reluctantly give the middle class a payroll tax break, it

asks seniors and people with disabilities to pay more for Medicare, but it refuses to ask millionaires and billionaires to pay one more cent.

Three, the bill threatens public health by preventing the Environmental Protection Agency from regulating dangerous mercury and other emissions, and then it goes a step further by threatening the public health by cutting the Prevention and Public Health Fund.

H.R. 3630 is a political statement, not a serious proposal. What a statement to make—more support for dirty air and water, increased health care costs for middle-income people, and less help for those struggling to find jobs.

NO VETERAN DIES ALONE PROGRAM

(Mr. COSTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the No Veteran Dies Alone program at the veterans hospital in Fresno, California.

During the holiday season, it is appropriate to give thanks. Members of the military follow the sacred oath of “leave no man behind.” The No Veteran Dies Alone program follows the ethos that ensures all veterans know that they are not forgotten in their remaining days.

Men and women, some of whom work at the hospital, volunteer their time to care for those who have worn the uniform of the U.S. military. This innovative volunteer program helps our veteran hospice patients spend their final days in friendship and warmth.

During the holiday season, may we seek to lead lives as compassionately as the volunteers who selflessly serve our veterans in the No Veteran Dies Alone program.

SUPPORTING THE PRIMARY CARE WORKFORCE ACCESS IMPROVEMENT ACT

(Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. I rise today to urge support for the Primary Care Workforce Access Improvement Act.

This bipartisan bill, which I've introduced with my colleague Mr. THOMPSON from California, will ensure that some of the most rural parts of our country will have greater access to doctors and that the high quality of health care that we value as Americans will continue. Right now, some areas of Washington State don't have enough doctors because there isn't enough funding for their residencies. Other areas, like Garfield County, simply have no doctors at all.

As cochair of the Congressional Rural Health Caucus, I can tell you